

SAMI MYLLYNIEMI

YOUTH BAROMETER 2014

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Ministry of Education and Culture
Youth Research Network
Advisory Council for Youth Affairs

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SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Barometer is a publication series, in which the values and attitudes of young people aged 15 to 29 living in Finland are surveyed. The barometer has been conducted each year since 1994. The Youth Barometer 2014 is based on 1,903 telephone interviews and has equality and discrimination as its themes.

This is the second Youth Barometer summary that also appears in English. The first one was the 2012 survey. For the first time, the population also includes the young people whose native language is not Finnish or Swedish.

Young people are of the view that discrimination primarily means unequal treatment of people. Almost all (95%) respondents think that you are discriminated against if because of your ethnic background you are refused service in a restaurant or fail to get a job despite otherwise meeting the competence requirements. Three out of four of all young people think that a situation where same-sex marriages are not permitted is discrimination.

Young people with immigrant background have experienced slightly more

discrimination than young people of the mainstream population. Especially experiencing frequent discrimination is more common. The experience of belonging to a minority is closely connected with the experiences of discrimination.

Less than 2% of the Finnish-speaking young people belonging to the mainstream population are of the view that they have been discriminated against because of their ethnic background. At the same time, among the members of the Swedish-speaking minority, the figure is over 10%. About one in five of the second-generation immigrants and one in three of the first-generation immigrants told that they have experienced discrimination directed at their ethnic background.

The percentages of those experiencing discrimination because of their sexual orientation (4%) and gender identity or gender expression (4%) should be proportioned to the sizes of the gender minorities. A total of 20% of the boys and 33% of the girls belonging to the minority because of their sexual orientation told that they have experienced discrimination because of their orientation. The majority of the

girls that strongly identify with the minority because of their sexual orientation have experienced discrimination because of their orientation.

School is by far the most common location for discrimination and situations involving discrimination. A total of 43% of all young people have experienced discrimination at school and for 77% of the young people that have faced discrimination at some point in their lives school has been the place where most of the discrimination has occurred. Discrimination is more common in comprehensive school and in vocational upper secondary education institutions, but occurs more rarely in general upper secondary schools and in higher education institutions.

A young person's foreign background increases the risk of being discriminated against and the likelihood of observing discrimination. On the one hand, the discrimination experienced by young people with immigrant background takes place in informal places where young people "hang around", while on the other hand, especially first-generation immigrants have, more often than others, also experienced discrimination when dealing with the authorities and when seeking housing.

Young people experiencing discrimination are considerably less trustful of others. They are more pessimistic about the future and they are less confident of being able to influence the course of their lives. Victims of discrimination

feel less secure than other young people, especially in connection with their own social exclusion and loneliness. They have fewer close friends, they meet with their friends less often and are more dissatisfied with their relationships with other people. Young people experiencing discrimination suffer from regular health symptoms more often than others and they are on average less satisfied with their health and their lives in general. Thus, the discrimination experienced by young people is closely connected with many of the indicators of ill-being.

Sami Myllyniemi

Statistics Researcher, Finnish Youth Research Network

Finnish Youth Research Network

The Finnish Youth Research Network is a community of researchers that engages in cooperation with universities and polytechnics and with professionals operating in research institutes and in the field of youth work. The network aims both to produce high-quality academic research and to use the research conducted by it to impact the development of youth policy and youth work.

The youth research network tackles phenomena related to youth and young people and introduces new knowledge and perspectives to public debate. The following topics are emphasised in the

research projects of the network: research on youth cultures, questions related to an individual's life course and becoming an adult and the themes of social exclusion, ethnic relations, education and youth work.

The Youth Research Network organises seminars and training. Many of the researchers in the network act as experts in different education and training events and development projects of youth work and youth policy.

The main financier of the Finnish Youth Research Network is the Youth Policy Division of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Advisory Council For Youth Affairs

The national Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora) is a consultative body in child and youth policy appointed by the government. The members of the council are individuals well-versed in the growing and living conditions of children and young people especially called to the task by the government. The secretariat of the council operates in connection with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Under the Youth Act, the tasks of Nuora include:

- annual assessment of the implementation of the government's child and youth policy programme;

- preparing proposals for programmes and measures concerning young people, and
- generating new, up-to-date information on young people and their living conditions.

The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs implements its statutory tasks for example by issuing statements and producing the annual Youth Barometer measuring the values and attitudes of young people in cooperation with the Finnish Youth Research Network.

Facts About Finland

A parliamentary republic in Northern Finland

Population (2014): 5,471,753

Area: 338,432.07 km²

Population density: 17.9 / km²

Age distribution of population:

Age group	Number	Percentage
0–14	896,608	16.4
15–29*	988,233	18.1
30–44	1,014,495	18.5
45–59	1,105,799	20.2
60–74	990,717	18.1
75–	475,901	8.7

*Target group of the Youth Barometer

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SURVEY AND ITS BACKGROUND VARIABLES

The population of the survey comprised the young people aged 15 to 29 living in Finland (excl. Åland). A total of 1,903 telephone interviews were conducted as part of the basic sample. There were a total of 1,680 Finnish-speakers, 100 Swedish-speakers and 123 whose native language was not Finnish or Swedish. These were in accordance with the proportion of these groups of the young people aged 15 to 29 of the Finnish population. The interviews were conducted in Finnish and Swedish and each interview had an average length of 34 minutes.

Apart from the age, native language and municipality of residence, information for the background variables of the Youth Barometer was obtained from the respondents themselves. Thus, the information was not extracted from a register but is based on the young interviewees' own understanding of the matter. As a result, for example, an individual's main type of activity may not match the one stated in official documents. A young person who both works and studies may state either one as his or her main type of activity. The same applies to a student in a summer job. Such a person may consider himself/herself primarily as a student even though this would not be the case at the time of the interview. The fact that, as a general rule, the background information for

the Youth Barometer has been obtained from the respondents does not have to be perceived a source for errors, but it is good to bear in mind that they primarily reflect the young person's own experience of the situation.

Minority experiences

A total of 50% of the young people do not feel that they belong to any minority while the remaining 50% have at least one minority experience.

A total of 18% have experience of belonging to a minority in one issue, 14% in two, 8% in three and 10% in at least four issues. A total of 81% have no experience of the stricter minority criterion (strong belonging). A total of 11% of the respondents have one and 8% at least two such minority criteria that are a source of strong belonging.

On average, women have more experience of belonging to a minority than men. In age-related comparison, those aged under 20 have more experiences of belonging to a minority than young people of slightly older age. Both in terms of gender and age, the gaps are widest in relation to gender orientation or sexual identity. More often than others, those aged under 20 also feel that they belong to a minority on the basis of their ethnic background.

Slightly less than half of all young people with immigrant background feel that they belong to an ethnic minority. Among first-generation immigrants

(those who immigrated to Finland as adults), the figure is 53%, in the generation in-between 1.5 (those who came to Finland as minors) 50% and among second-generation immigrants 44%. Thus, the age of immigration has a slight impact.

It is also interesting from the perspective of discrimination that one quarter of all young people who have experienced discrimination because of their ethnic background do not even feel that they belong to an ethnic minority. Some of these youngsters may feel that they belong to the ethnic majority but the observations can also be interpreted as criticism of the categorisation of people as minorities.

DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

In order to ensure that all respondents understand discrimination in the same manner and, consequently, to ensure that the results are comparable, the following general definition of discrimination was read to all interviewees: “Discrimination means that a person or a group is treated unequally without any justification on grounds of gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or other reason pertaining to the person or persons in question. This means that school bullying may also be discrimination.”

The formulating of the question has a major impact on the results and even the order of the questions is important.

CHART 1. “DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU BELONG TO A MINORITY IN THE FOLLOWING MATTERS?”(%)

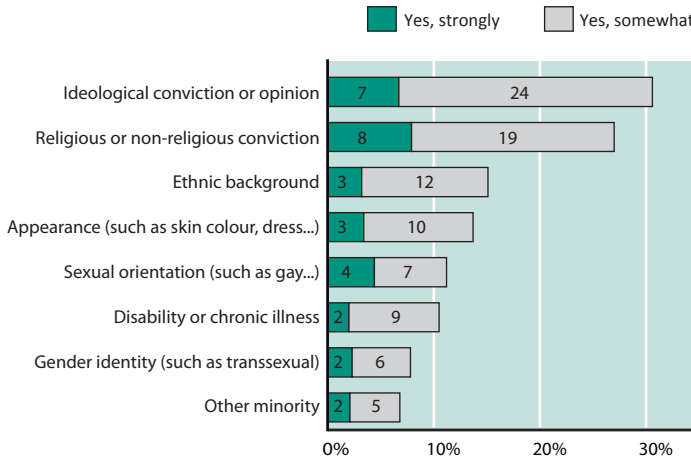
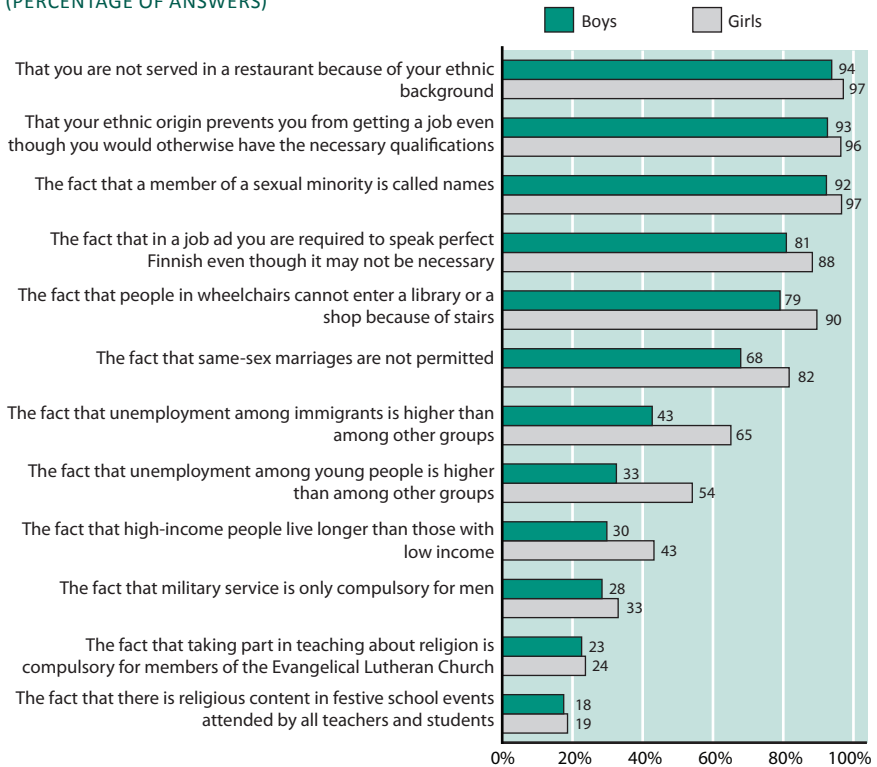


CHART 2. "IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING INVOLVE DISCRIMINATION?" (PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS)



In this survey, the theme of discrimination was first approached from the perspective of definitions (“In your opinion, which of the following involve discrimination?”). Only after that were the interviewees asked about their own experiences of discrimination, first whether they had witnessed discrimination against young people in general and then whether they themselves had been discriminated against. This probably made it easier for the interviewees to think about discrimination as a

wider phenomenon than if they had only been asked whether they feel that have experienced discrimination.

What is perceived as discrimination?

Almost all (95%) respondents think that you are discriminated against if because of your ethnic background you are refused service in a restaurant or fail to get a job despite otherwise meeting the competence requirements. For

young people, discrimination is above all a matter of unequal treatment. Thus, discrimination and inequality go hand in hand.

Discrimination against young people

A total of 85% of all respondents have witnessed discrimination against young people during the last 12 months. Girls have witnessed slightly more discrimi-

nation against young people than boys. There seems to be more discrimination against young people in the media than at any other forum.

A large percentage of young people has witnessed discrimination against young people in places where youngsters like to “hang around”, such as shopping centres, streets, cafés and bars.

Respondents that have experience of belonging to minorities have witnessed discrimination against young

CHART 3. “HAVE YOU WITNESSED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS IN THE FOLLOWING PLACES OR SITUATIONS?” (%)

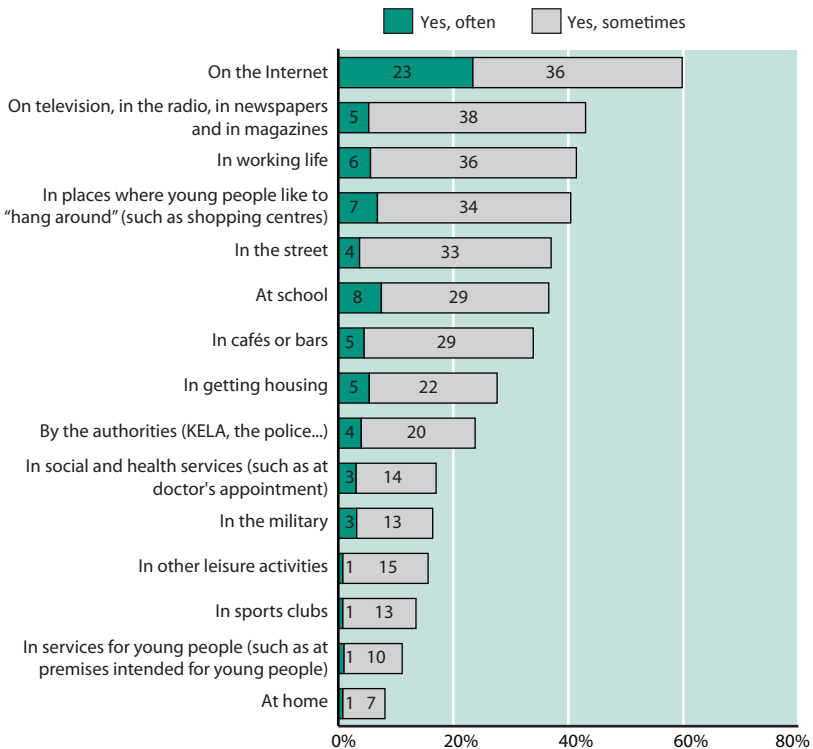
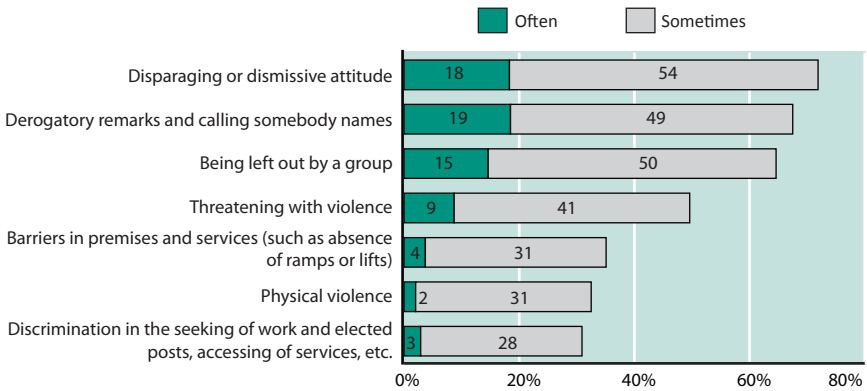


CHART 4. “WHAT ABOUT THE FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE? HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU WITNESSED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?” (%)



people considerably more often than others. The experiences of belonging to a minority also increase the risk of being discriminated against, which explains at least some of the observations. However, belonging to a minority may also make you more sensitive to noticing discrimination against others. Young people with minority experiences have witnessed discrimination against other young people more often than others, particularly at school, on the internet and by the authorities.

More than twice as many young people who feel that they belong to an ethnic minority have witnessed discrimination at home. The differences are also significant in services intended for youngsters, sports clubs, other leisure activities and in the military.

Nearly all young people who feel that they belong to a minority because of their sexual orientation have

witnessed discrimination against youngsters more often than others. The differences are particularly wide at school and in working life, especially if the respondent is a woman.

Forms of discrimination

Most common forms of discrimination are disparaging or dismissive attitude, derogatory remarks, calling somebody names or being left out by a group. Half of all young people have witnessed threats of violence and one third physical violence.

Young people with immigrant background have witnessed violence, threats of violence and discrimination in the seeking of work, accessing services, etc. On average, young people belonging to sexual or gender minorities have witnessed all forms of discrimination listed in chart 4 more often than others.

CHART 5. "HAVE YOU AT SOME POINT IN YOUR LIFE FELT THAT YOU ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?" (%)



Immigrant generation 1: aged over 17 when moved to Finland

Immigrant generation 1,5: aged under 18 when moved to Finland

Immigrant generation 2: born in Finland, at least one of the parents was born elsewhere.

Discrimination experienced by young people

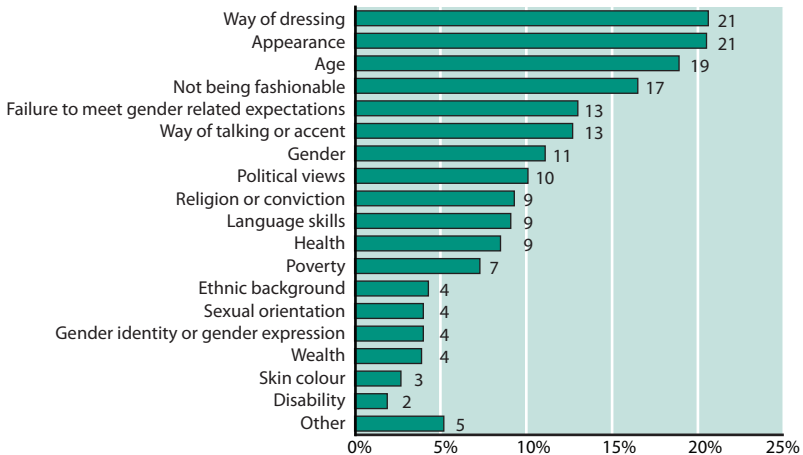
The majority (55%) of all young people aged 15 to 29 feel that they have been discriminated against at some point in their lives. A total of 7% say that they have often faced discrimination while 48% say that they have experienced occasional discrimination. As much as 72% of the young people with minority experiences connected with their sexual orientation have experienced discrimination at some point in their lives. It seems that all other minority experiences also increase the risk of being discriminated against.

Young people with immigrant background have experienced slightly more

discrimination than young people of the mainstream population. Especially, being “often” discriminated against is more common among them. The age of moving to Finland has an interesting connection with the respondents’ own discrimination experiences. Those who have moved to Finland as adults seem to have fewer discrimination experiences than second-generation immigrants and those who had moved to Finland as children.

In the length of time that has passed since the discrimination, there are differences that accord with the discrimination criteria (cf. chart 6). Young people who are still facing discrimination are usually those in whose view

CHART 6. “HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS?” (PERCENTAGE OF YES-ANSWERS)



* Only those who have experienced discrimination at some point in their lives were asked this question. However, the percentages shown in the chart have been calculated on the basis of all respondents.

discrimination is based on disability, skin colour, gender identity or sexual orientation. At the same time, most of the discrimination experiences pertaining to appearance, dress or failure to wear fashionable clothes occurred many years ago.

Grounds for discrimination

Chart 6 shows 18 grounds for discrimination in order of occurrence. Even though the questions were only put to those who had experienced discrimination at some point in their lives, the percentages have been calculated on the basis of all respondents.

When all grounds for discrimination covered in the survey are examined, it is seen that only one in five of all those who have experienced discrimination give only one reason. Half of all victims of discrimination name at least three different grounds, while one in four name at least five. Five per cent of those who have experienced discrimination account for more than half of all grounds for discrimination asked in the survey.

The grounds for discrimination experienced by young people are strongly connected with the appearance. A total of 21% of all those aged 15 to 29 have experienced dress-related discrimination, while a similar proportion has faced discrimination because of appearance in general. Experiencing discrimination on grounds of appearance is

much more common among girls than among boys. For girls, the age of under 20 is also more strongly connected with experiencing discrimination than for boys. Five per cent of boys but 18% of girls say that they have experienced discrimination because of their gender.

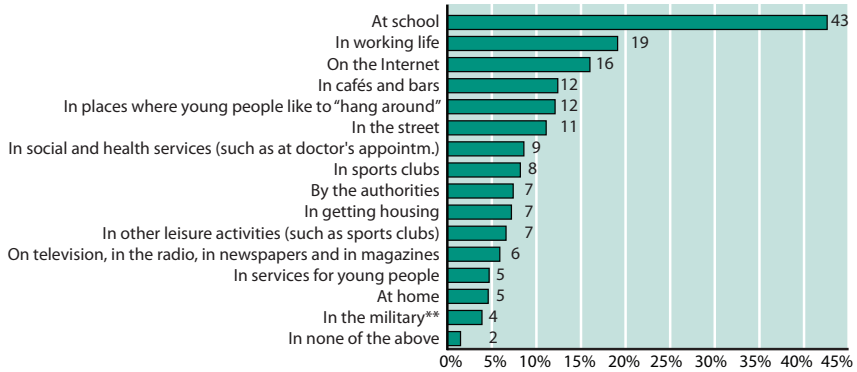
A total of 19% of all those aged 15 to 29 say that they have experienced age-related discrimination. The percentage can be compared with the findings of the Eurobarometer in which 15% of the Finns of all ages think that discrimination of those under the age of 30 is common in Finland. On average, the percentage is lower in Finland than in the rest of Europe.

Places of discrimination

While a total of 43% of all young people have experienced discrimination at school, for 77% of young people that have faced discrimination at some point in their lives, school has been the location where most of the discrimination has taken place. When we compare the answers of students that have only experienced discrimination at the time of the interview, it transpires that discrimination is more common in comprehensive school and institutes of vocational upper secondary education but rarer in general upper secondary schools and in higher education institutions.

When the places of discrimination are examined, the frequency of the experiences should be proportioned to

CHART 7. “IN WHAT KIND OF SITUATIONS HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION?”



* Only those who have experienced discrimination at some point in their lives were asked this question. However, the percentages shown in the chart have been calculated on the basis of all respondents.

** Only men aged 18 and over were asked this question.

the fact that the respondent may not have any experiences of all the locations asked. School is the most common place of discrimination by a wide margin, which is understandable because nearly all interviewees have spent a great deal of time at school. Previous surveys also indicated that discrimination experienced by children and young people is more common at school than during leisure time.

According to the material collected for the Youth Barometer, young people with immigrant background do not feel that they have faced discrimination at school more often than others.

There are no differences between immigrant youngsters and young people of the mainstream population in the frequency of discrimination in places with a large number of young people (schools, sports clubs, other leisure

activities, services for young people or places were young people like to “hang around”). Here, too, it should be noted how often the interviewee has been in the location or situation in question. For example, sports clubs are less popular among people with immigrant background than among the mainstream population. Thus, the fact that there are no differences between the frequency of discrimination experiences may actually show that people with immigrant background are more likely to face discrimination.

Compared with other groups, more than twice as many youngsters belonging to the minority in terms of their gender identity say that they have faced discrimination in sports clubs. Young people with minority experiences connected with their gender identity face discrimination in places where young

people like to “hang around” more often than others though not in youth premises or at school.

Nearly all young people who feel that they belong to a minority because of their sexual orientation experience more discrimination than others.

Perpetrators

Almost one third of all young people admit that they have been involved in discriminatory activities. The proportion of young men saying that they have been involved in these activities is higher (36%) than the proportion of young women (27%). Those who have experienced discrimination are much more frequently involved in the discrimination of others than those that have not faced discrimination. Thus, it

seems that the same youngsters are often both victims and perpetrators. One reason for this may also be that people that have experienced discrimination are more likely to recognise that their own action is of discriminatory nature. The fourfold table in chart 8 describes the overlaps between the roles.

Girls are overrepresented among victims of discrimination, while boys are overrepresented among the perpetrators. There are only small age-related differences between the categories in the fourfold table and the same applies to differences based on regional variables. However, it seems that especially in rural areas, young people are more likely to avoid any discriminatory experiences than other youngsters.

There are interesting differences between education variables and these variables provide bridges between themes related to discrimination and social exclusion. There is little difference between victims and perpetrators of discrimination on the one hand and those that have not experienced discrimination on the other when the average grades of the basic education certificates are examined. At the same time, the average grades of the perpetrator-victims are relatively low. There are no differences between the victims and perpetrators as regards continuing to upper secondary level and to higher levels. However, young people who have not experienced discrimination and have not been engaged in

CHART 8. VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS OF DISCRIMINATION – FOURFOLD TABLE.

		HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN DISCRIMINATION		
		No	Yes	
HAS FACED DISCRIMINATION	No	No personal experiences 37% (n=690)	Perpetrators 8% (n=151)	45% (n=841)
	Yes	Victims 32% (n=604)	Perpetrator-Victims 23% (n=443)	55% (n=1047)
		68% (n=1294)	32% (n=594)	100% (n=1888)

discriminatory activities are more likely to continue their studies after comprehensive school. When degrees are also considered, it transpires that people with university education are less likely to have been involved in discrimination. At the same time, those with no degrees or study places are overrepresented among perpetrator-victims, which may suggest higher risk of social exclusion.

Nature of discrimination and its consequences

The overall picture of the assistance to youngsters that have experienced discrimination is quite bleak. Not getting direct assistance is common but failure to tackle discriminatory practices is even more common. Only one interviewee in five was of the view that the investigation of the discrimination led to more action, such as changes in op-

erating practices or guidelines.

However, 66% say that being discriminated against has had positive effects on their lives. It is fairly interesting that fewer (45%) are of the view that discrimination had negative effects. Even though this does not suggest that discrimination has more positive than negative effects, the observation is surprising and may be an indication of the tendency to explain the phenomenon away and highlight the efforts to cope with the problem. Consideration should also be given to telephone interviews as a means of collecting information: The interviewees are expected to talk openly about painful personal matters that they may never before have shared with anybody.

Examination based on the amount and type of the discrimination experienced will make the picture more detailed. As many as half of those that

CHART 9. EXPERIENCES OF BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. ONLY THOSE THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION WERE ASKED THESE QUESTIONS. (%)

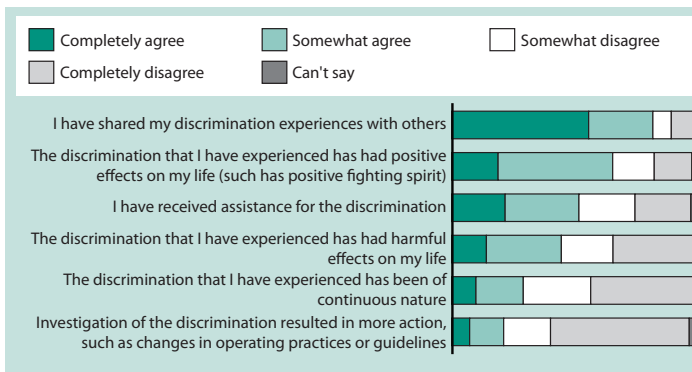
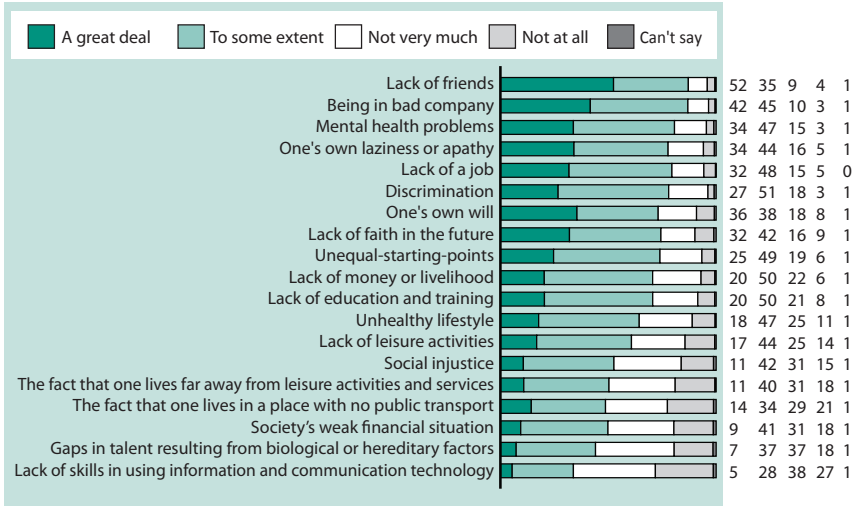


CHART 10 A. "IN YOUR OPINION, HOW MUCH IS MARGINALIZATION A RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING?"



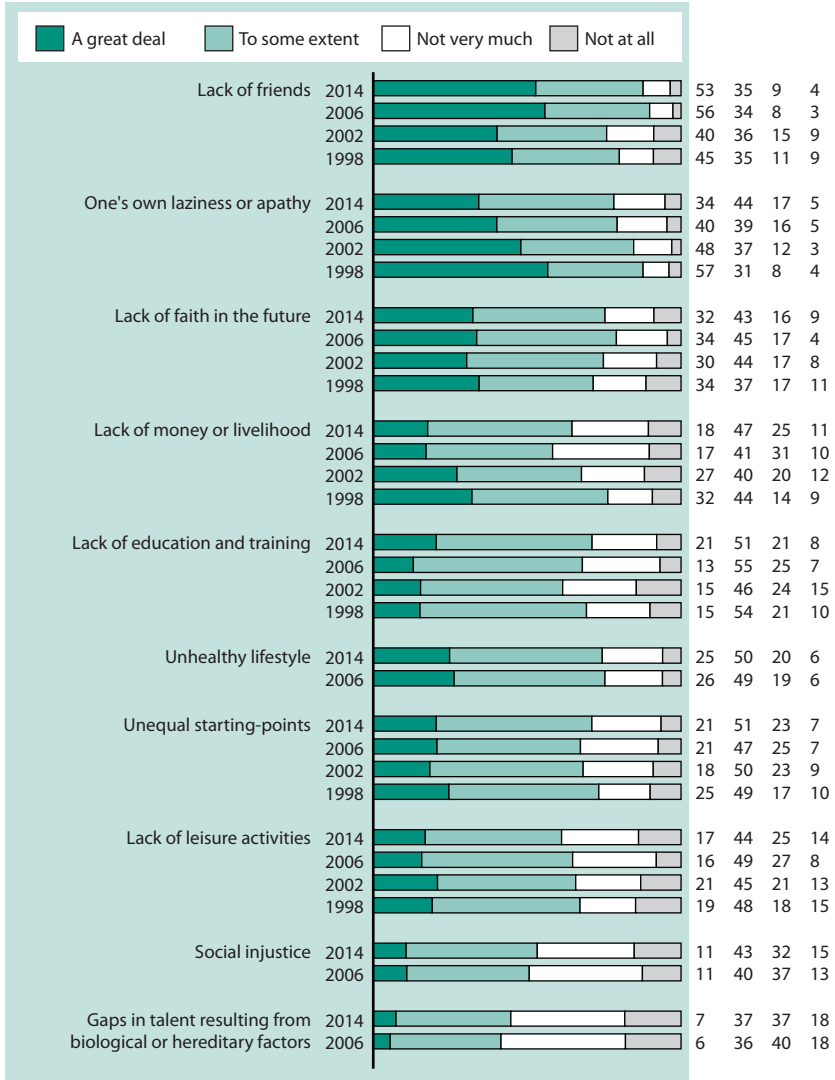
have experienced frequent discrimination completely agree with the statement that discrimination has had a harmful effect on their lives. Only 9% of those that have faced occasional discrimination share this view. If the discrimination has been of continuous nature, more than three out of four think that its effects have been harmful. Among those facing frequent and continuous discrimination, the figure is more than 90%. The time passed since the discrimination also has an effect: More recent the discriminatory experiences, the more harmful are their effects considered.

Causes of marginalization

In the survey, the interviewees were not provided with any definition of marginalization and in fact there is no generally accepted definition for the concept. The fact that in the attempts to define marginalization, causes and consequences are easily confused already makes it a complex matter. For example, is a long-term unemployed “excluded” or is long-term unemployment a cause for marginalization.

The fact that the lack of friends became the most important cause for marginalization may be interpreted as a sign that for young people marginalization is above all a situation where you are excluded from social life. This interpretation is also supported by the fact

CHART 10 B. "IN YOUR OPINION, HOW MUCH IS MARGINALIZATION A RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS?" A COMPARISON BETWEEN 1998, 2002, 2006 AND 2014. (%)



that, according to the survey results, the second most important cause for marginalization is ending up in the wrong company.

Changes in causes of social exclusion

Since the 1990s, there have been no major changes in how young people view the causes of social exclusion. Lack of friends remains the biggest cause explaining marginalization. At the same time, fewer young people consider unhealthy lifestyle, laziness or apathy as causes of marginalization.

TRUST AND WELFARE STATE

Social trust

Trust in people that one does not know is highest in countries where public services are considered fair. Fairness of public services means, in addition to taxation, public services available to everybody whether one uses them or not. There is significantly more trust in the Nordic countries than elsewhere in Europe and its level is not on the decrease.

The matter was examined using the following question taken from the European Social Survey: “Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance or would they try to be fair?” The answer scale was 0-10, in which zero means

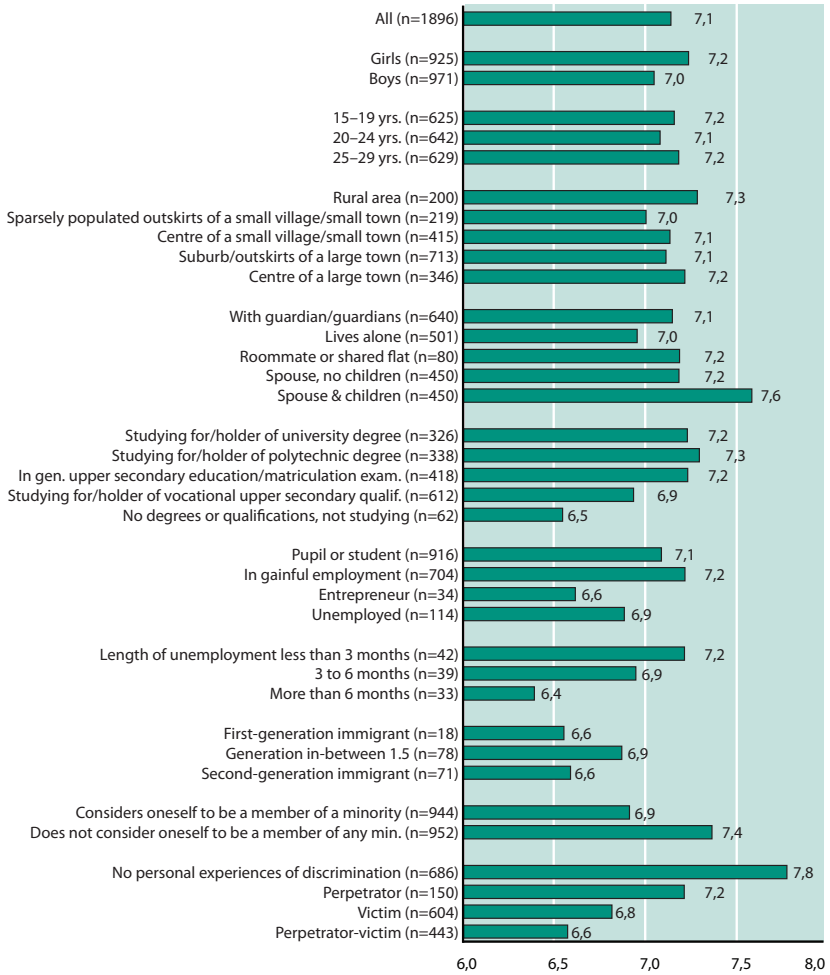
that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance and 10 that people would try to be fair. (Chart 11).

The average is 7.1 and the most common score is 8. There is no unequivocal answer to the question whether this level of trust is low or high. However, most interviewees were inclined to consider people as fair rather than as individuals trying to take advantage of other people. Only 10% of all young people gave the score of less than 5, which was at the most cynical end of the scale. The majority gave the score of at least 8 and a quarter at least 9.

The chart shows that in the Youth Barometer, girls have slightly more trust in other people than boys. There are no significant values according with regional variables as social trust is roughly at the same level in different parts of Finland and in different types of living environments. As regards types of household, trust was weakest among people living alone and strongest among those living with their spouses and children.

Level of education and main type of activity of the young people are closely connected with social trust. Those with vocational upper secondary qualification and especially those without any vocational qualification are significantly more cynical than young people with higher qualifications. When the main types of activity are compared, unemployed and, surprisingly, entrepreneurs are more cynical than others.

CHART 11. SOCIAL TRUST* (0–10, AVERAGES)



* "Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance or would they try to be fair? Give your opinion on a scale of zero to ten in which zero means that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance and 10 that people would try to be fair."

** First-generation immigrant: aged over 17 when moved to Finland; generation in-between 1,5: aged under 18 when moved to Finland; second-generation immigrant: born in Finland, at least one of the parents was born outside Finland.

Long-term unemployment is connected with the weakening of social trust.

The fact that among immigrants and excluded youngsters there is an exceptionally large number of those that have lost trust should give cause for concern. There are cynical individuals especially among those who have both faced discrimination and discriminated others. Experiences of belonging to a minority are also connected with weaker social trust. Trust is particularly weak among those youngsters that consider themselves as members of a minority because of disability, chronic illness or appearance.

Trust in different groups of people

Judging from chart 12, young people are, as a rule, fairly trustful as nearly all respondents say that they basically have at least some trust in any of the groups listed. It seems that in the result of the Youth Barometer, age is not the decisive

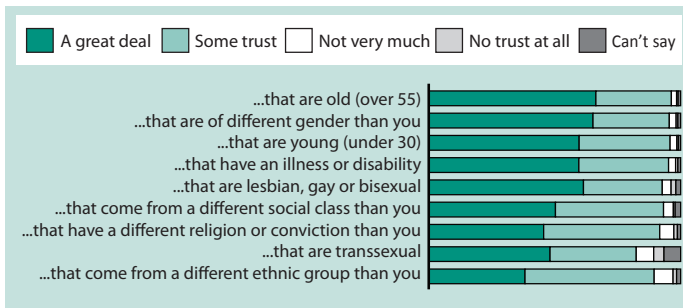
trust-related factor as in the eyes of the young people, both young and old are at least in principle highly trustworthy. It should be noted, however, that young people say that they trust old people even more than young people.

Trust was weakest in different ethnic groups. The answer may, however, say more about the negative label attached to the stereotype “ethnic minority” than about the experiences or views of the respondent as such.

In all, young people that have groups listed in chart 12 among their close friends or family members usually have more trust in such people than others. It is interesting that the experience of belonging to a minority does not seem to increase trust in the members of that minority.

In general, young people living in large towns have more trust in different people than those living in small localities and rural areas.

CHART 12. “HOW MUCH TRUST DO YOU HAVE IN THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF PEOPLE...” (%)



Young people with immigrant background have less trust in groups differing from them than young people of the mainstream population. Especially first-generation immigrants that have moved to Finland as adults have, almost invariably, less trust in different groups.

The answers of young people that have experienced discrimination also show clear lack of trust in nearly all groups listed in chart 12. The observations concerning immigrants and victims of discrimination are in line with the cynicism discussed above. It may thus be

CHART 13. "HOW UNCERTAIN OR INSECURE DO YOU FEEL BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS?" COMPARISON 2004, 2006, 2008* AND 2014.(%)

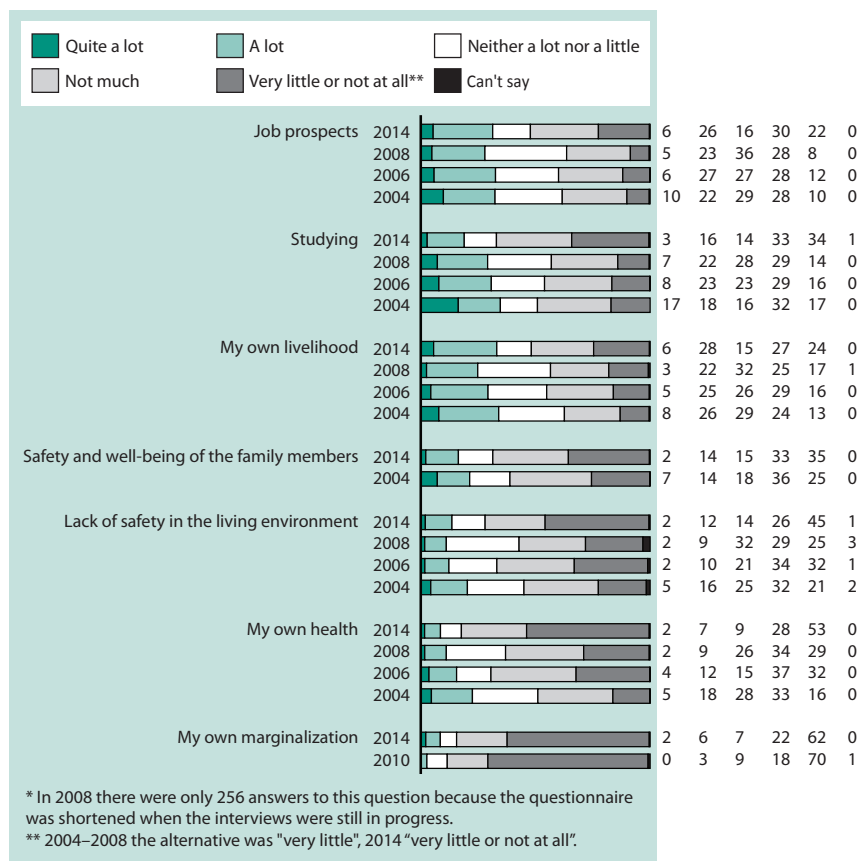
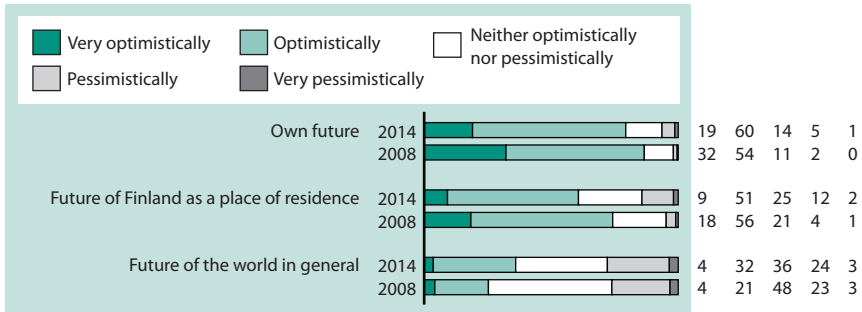


CHART 14. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE FUTURE 2008 AND 2014. (%)



that at least with these groups it is not so much a question of attitudes towards being different as weaker trust in other people in general.

Changes in the feeling of insecurity

Some of the questions measuring the feeling of insecurity have been repeated in the Youth Barometer every second year since 2004. The results are presented in chart 13, which shows that, as a rule, the feeling of insecurity has decreased during the last ten years.

The number of people who worry about getting a job has increased since 2008. This change is understandable considering the economic downturn and the growth in youth unemployment during the past few years. On the other hand the proportion of those who are not at all worried about getting a job has increased. The changes in worries concerning income are similar: both the number of participants who feel a lot of uncertainty and those who feel very little or no uncertainty are growing.

The proportion of people who feel at least fairly worried about being socially excluded is still quite small (8%), but it has grown visibly in four years.

Faith in the future

Young people are becoming less optimistic about their own future and the future of Finland. There has been a particularly sharp drop in the proportion of people who are very optimistic. At the same time, there is more optimism about the future of the world than six years ago. It is impossible to say which factors have the strongest influence on these trends. Faith in the future is such a broad concept that it cannot be divided into parts in any way. However, during the six years that have passed since the last survey we have experienced the economic downturn originating from the financial crisis that started in the autumn of 2008. This downturn still manifests itself as higher youth employment, which can be assumed to have an

influence at least on the young peoples' views of their own future and the future of Finland.

In the comparison based on background information, optimism about the future of the world is strongest among the respondents under the age of 20. This age group, the youngest included in the survey, is also more optimistic about its own future and the future of Finland. However, the gaps are widest in the global perspective. At the same time, there is pessimism, particularly among left-leaning and green-oriented youngsters. Victims of discrimination are more pessimistic than others about their own future and the future of Finland, as well the future of the world in general.

SOCIAL RELATIONS

Meeting friends

More than half (58%) of all respondents meet their friends every day. For the boys the figure is 62% and for girls 53%. Chart 15 shows that the frequency of meeting friends drops sharply with age. This is probably explained by the turning point after upper secondary level studies, which is connected with education and working life. When young people settle in at their new place of study or job, school no longer functions as a meeting place, and their social life

becomes less regular than it used to be.

Unemployed youngsters meet their friends much more rarely than young people who are studying or working. The differences remain even when consideration is given to the age of the respondent. As a rule, young people with immigrant background do not meet their friends more frequently or infrequently than the mainstream population. The age of immigration is, however, an important additional factor. Higher the age of immigration, lower the frequency of meeting with friends.

Victims of discrimination meet with their friends less often than those involved in discrimination who in fact meet with their friends more often than average. Even though meeting friends on a regular basis is strongly connected with good human relations, the perpetrators are less satisfied than average. In fact, the connection between satisfaction with human relations and the frequency of meeting friends is strongest among those youngsters who have witnessed discrimination (as victims or perpetrators). As a result, dissatisfaction with human relations is strongest among the victims of discrimination that meet with their friends relatively infrequently.

Online and telephone contacts

Even though the devices and programs of communication are changing, the biggest difference probably still remains

CHART 15. "HOW OFTEN DO YOU MEET YOUR FRIENDS?" (%)

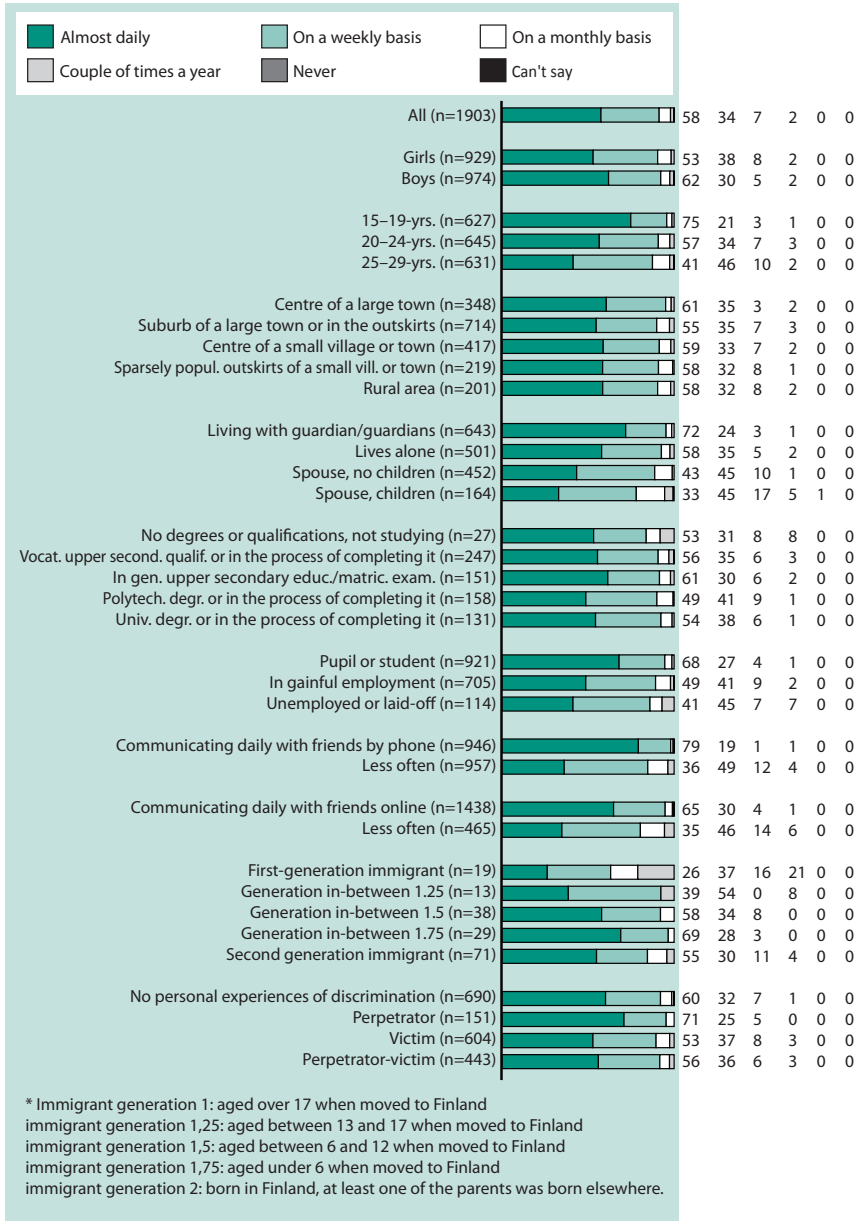
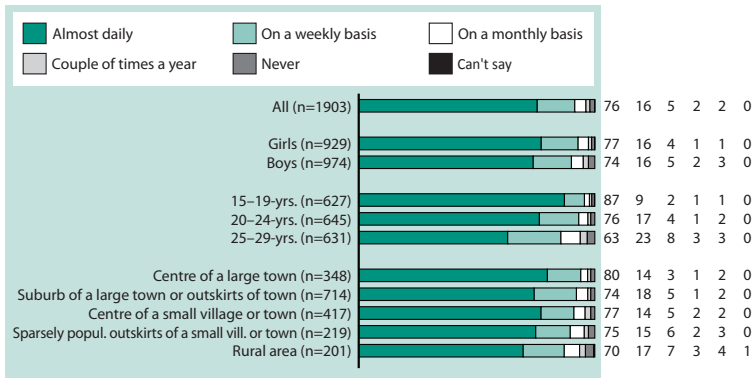


CHART 16. "HOW OFTEN ARE YOU IN ONLINE CONTACT WITH YOUR FRIENDS?" (%)



between face-to-face meetings and other types of contact. As regards other types of contact, a distinction is also made between face-to-face meetings on the one hand and telephone and online connections on the other. This differentiation is particularly between oral and written communications and the matter to be measured concerns contacts and the means of communications, irrespective of the method.

Communicating online with friends

Communicating online with friends on a regular basis is already more popular than communicating by phone and face-to-face meetings (Chart 16). Girls have slightly more regular online contacts with their friends than boys. As in the previous survey made in 2013, the differences between genders were opposite to what they were in face-to-face meetings and telephone contacts. Even

though boys spend significantly more time online than girls there are differences between boys and girls in the way in which the time is spent.

There is a reduction in online contacts after teenage years. In the 2013 leisure time survey, which covered people aged 7 to 29, it was noted that communicating online increases after the age of 10 and reaches its peak in the age group of between 15 to 19.

Regular online contacts with friends are closely connected with regular meetings and with a large number of friends. Telephone contacts explain regular meetings with friends even more than online contacts. This suggests that meetings and indirect means of communication supplement and promote each other rather than serve as competitors.

CHART 17A “ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THIS SPRING?” (ASKED BEFORE THE ELECTION DAY, ONLY THOSE AGED 18 AND OVER, %)

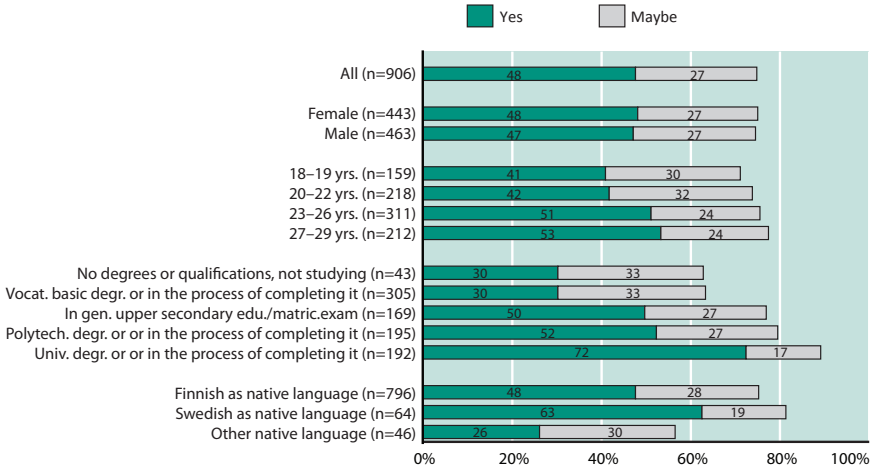
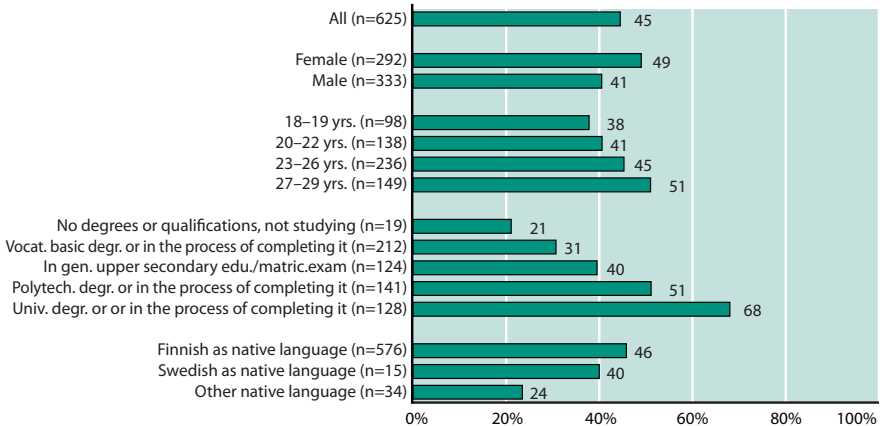


CHART 17B “DID YOU VOTE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THIS SPRING?” (ASKED AFTER THE ELECTION DAY, ONLY THOSE AGED 18 AND OVER. PERCENTAGE OF YES-ANSWERS.)



CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL VALUES

Under this heading, we are examining civic participation and social values. Voting and involvement in the activities of organisations and popular movements are the only forms of civic participation covered in this survey. As regards values, we will first discuss views concerning immigration and racism, followed by how young people relate to different value dimensions.

Voting

The findings suggest that the number of young people saying they would vote is higher than the number of youngsters actually voting. Before the election, 48% said that they would vote, while 27% said that they might vote. After the elections, only 45% cent said that they had actually voted. Thus, roughly speaking, it can be concluded that few of those unsure about their voting intentions actually voted, and many of those “certain” to vote also stayed home. Even though the reasons for not voting were not examined in this survey, the findings of the Youth Barometer 2013 indicate that for the majority of those not voting, it was a personal decision and only the minority stayed home because they were unable to cast their ballots.

It seems that young women are slightly more active voters even though the difference can only be seen in the figures collected after the election day.

People with higher education levels are significantly more likely to cast their ballots.

Voting turnout among young people with immigrant background seems low but based on the survey there is no certainty that all respondents have the right to vote. The differences between second-generation immigrants and the mainstream population are negligible and the voting turnout among Finnish-born children of transnational marriages is even higher. It should be noted, however, that the number of respondents in the individual groups of immigrant generations are too small for definite conclusions. The experiences of belonging to a minority are not connected with the voting turnout, which is interesting as it significantly boosts involvement in organisations engaged in civic participation (Chart 18). Even though the forms of civic participation are strongly accumulating in nature, they seem to mean different things for different people.

Civic participation in organisations

A total of 20% of all young people say that they are engaged in the activities of a civic organisation or a popular movement. A total of 15% say that they are engaged in the activities occasionally, while only 5% said that they are actively engaged. The results can be proportioned to the fact that 50% of young people aged 15 to 29 are engaged

CHART 18. "ARE YOU ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF A CIVIC ORGANISATION OR POPULAR MOVEMENT?" (%)



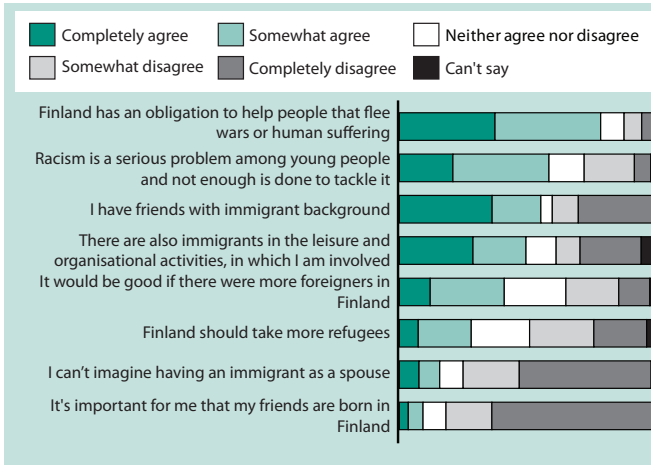
in some kind of organisational activities. It should be noted, however, that the latter figure also includes the one third who are only members and who are not engaged in the activities of the organisations. On this basis, the rough estimate is that slightly more than half of all organisational activities involving young people aim at some type of civic participation.

The second point of comparison is connected with participation and not with the organisational dimension. According to the Youth Barometer 2013, a total of 31% of the young people said that they had tried to influence issues important to them during the preceding

12 months. Thus, civic participation among young people is not only a matter of engaging in the activities of organisations and popular movements. On the one hand, this may be an indication of the fact that participation is becoming more individualised, while at the same time, spontaneous groups aiming to influence matters may also be strongly communal in nature.

Using this indicator, there are no differences in the level of participation between boys and girls. The differences between age groups and regional variables are also small. At the same time, however, level of education has a strong influence on the level of engagement in

CHART 19. IMMIGRATION AND RACISM (%)

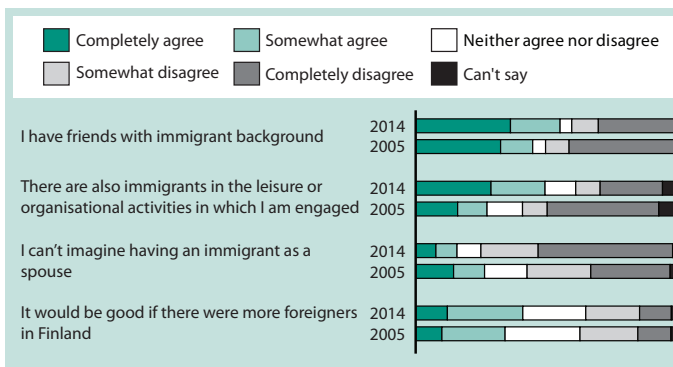


organisational activities. Even though a strong connection with the parents' level of education also exists, the connection is not direct as both the highest and least educated parents have active children. This observation may have to do with the connection between a low-income childhood home and active

engagement in civic matters, which was also noticed in the Youth Barometer 2013.

There is no difference in the level of engagement in organisations or popular movements between youngsters with immigrant background and the mainstream population. At the same

CHART 20. STATEMENTS CONCERNING IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANTS. COMPARISON 2005 AND 2014. (%)



time, the experience of belonging to a minority is connected with the level of engagement. Young people belonging to minorities because of their sexual orientation or gender minority are also actively engaged, whereas ethnic background is not statistically significant in this respect.

Young people that have experienced discrimination are more actively engaged in organisations.

Immigration and racism

A clear majority of the young people seem to have straightforward relations with immigrants and positive attitudes towards them. Four out of five of all young people are also of the view that Finland has an obligation to help people fleeing wars or human suffering. Against this background, the attitudes towards taking refugees are surprisingly critical as only 28% of the respondents

think that Finland should take more refugees. A minority (41%) considers it a good thing if there were more foreigners in Finland.

Changes in attitudes towards immigrants

Finland has become more multicultural and the number of immigrants has increased, which also manifests itself in the experiences of young people. More and more young people have friends with immigrant background and an increasing number of young people are engaged in leisure or organisational activities in which there also immigrants. At the same time, more young people could imagine a situation where they have an immigrant spouse. More young people are of the view that it would be good if there were more foreigners in Finland.

CHART 21. PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE LEFT WING RIGHT WING AXIS. COMPARISON OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 18 TO 29 1996–2014. (%)

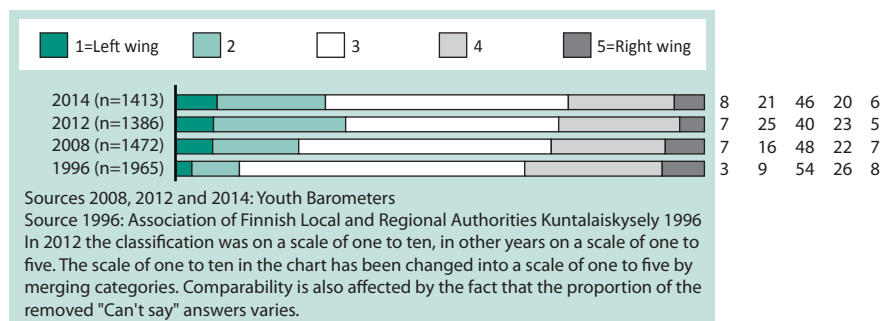
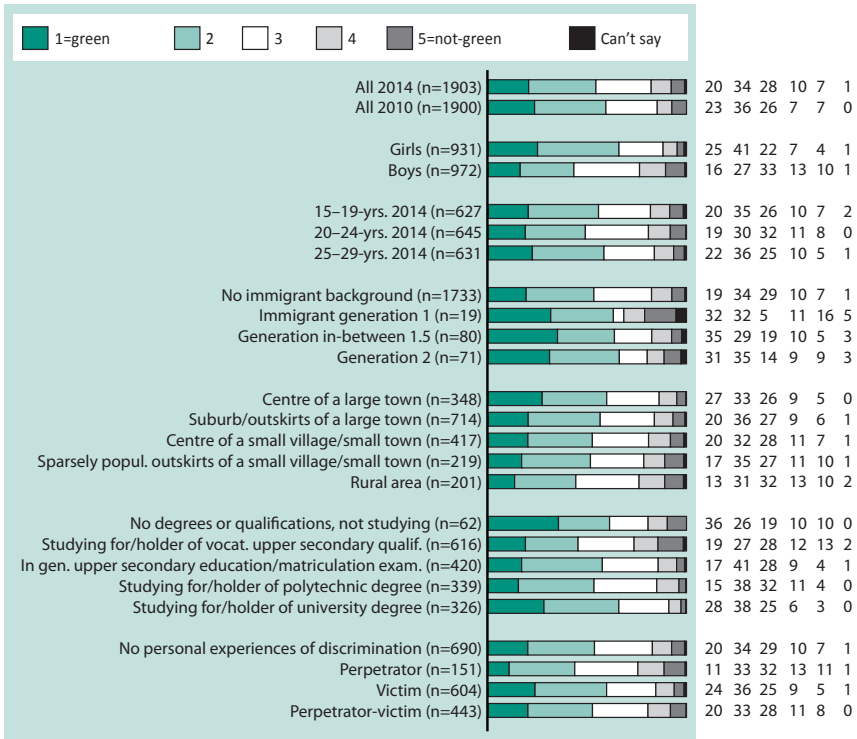


CHART 22. PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE GREEN – NOT GREEN DIMENSION (%)



Value dimensions

Young people’s views concerning social matters were examined by asking them to put themselves on five different value dimensions using a scale of 1 to 5. The dimensions were as follows: left-wing – right-wing, patriotic – not patriotic, religious – non-religious, green – not green, liberal – conservative.

Left-wing – right-wing

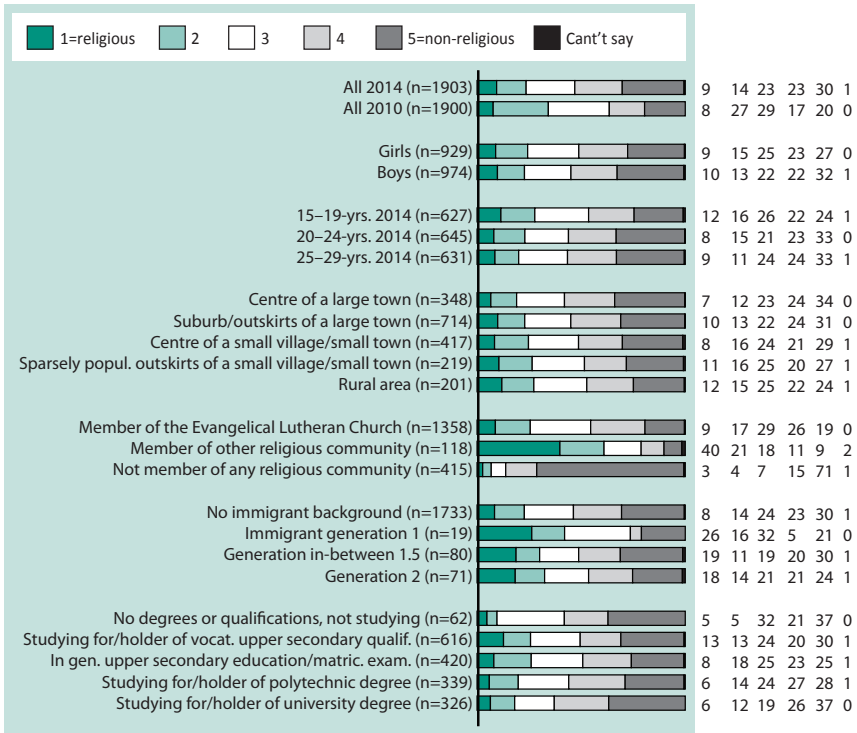
Girls are slightly more left-wing than boys. Age-related shifts in the scale left-

wing – right-wing are small. On average, identification with the left increases slightly at the age of about 20.

Changes in left-wing – right-wing thinking

The chart shows the increasing left-wing orientation that has been going on since the 1990s but that seems to have stopped. Trends are similar among boys and girls. In all surveys, girls have been slightly more left-wing even though there seems to have been some narrowing in the gap between the genders.

CHART 23. PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE RELIGIOUS – NON-RELIGIOUS DIMENSION (%)



Green – not green

In the survey “green” was specified as meaning somebody who “puts emphasis on environmental values”, while “not green” was specified to mean somebody who does “not put emphasis on environmental values”. Being “green” is not necessarily the best word to describe environmental values as it can be confused with greens as a political movement.

In the group of respondents as a whole, there has been a slight decrease

in the identification with green values compared with the survey conducted four years ago. Women are now significantly greener than men. Four years ago there were few differences between the genders but since then girls’ values have become greener, while among boys there has been a sharper shift to the opposite direction. Those under 20 now consider themselves greener than in 2010.

Of those young people, who because of their ideological conviction

consider themselves as belonging to the minority, 59% are in the green end of the axis. Those who consider themselves as belonging to the minority because of their sexual orientation, or religious or non-religious conviction are also greener than average. Young people with immigrant background consider themselves greener than the mainstream population.

Religious – non-religious

Compared with the 2010 survey, young people would seem to have become less religious. In particular, the shift manifests itself as the growth in the number of those defining themselves as non-religious.

There are no differences between religiousness perceived by boys and girls. Those aged under 20 consider themselves as more religious than those

CHART 24. PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE PATRIOTIC – NOT PATRIOTIC DIMENSION (%)

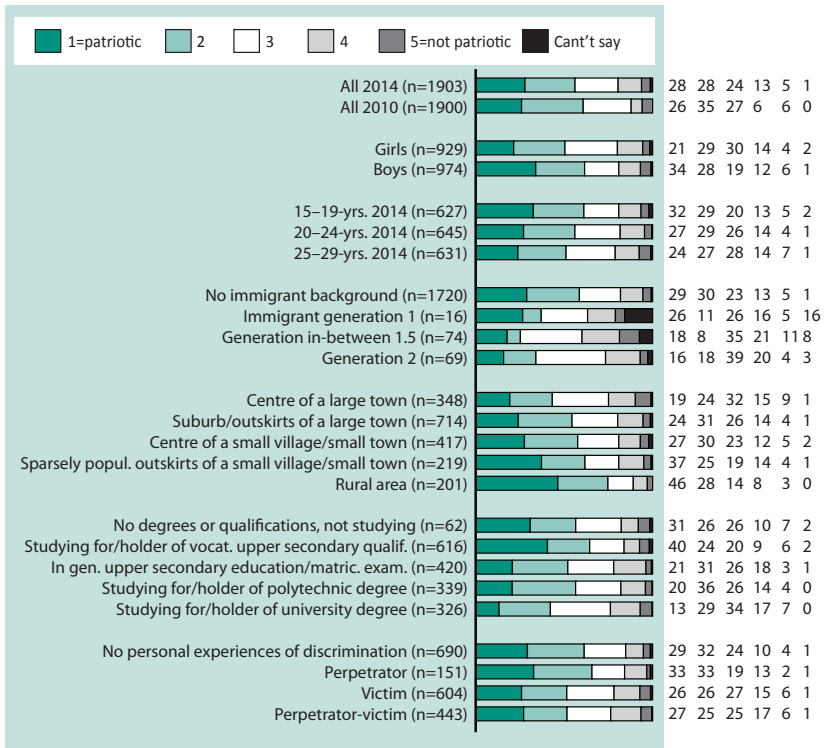
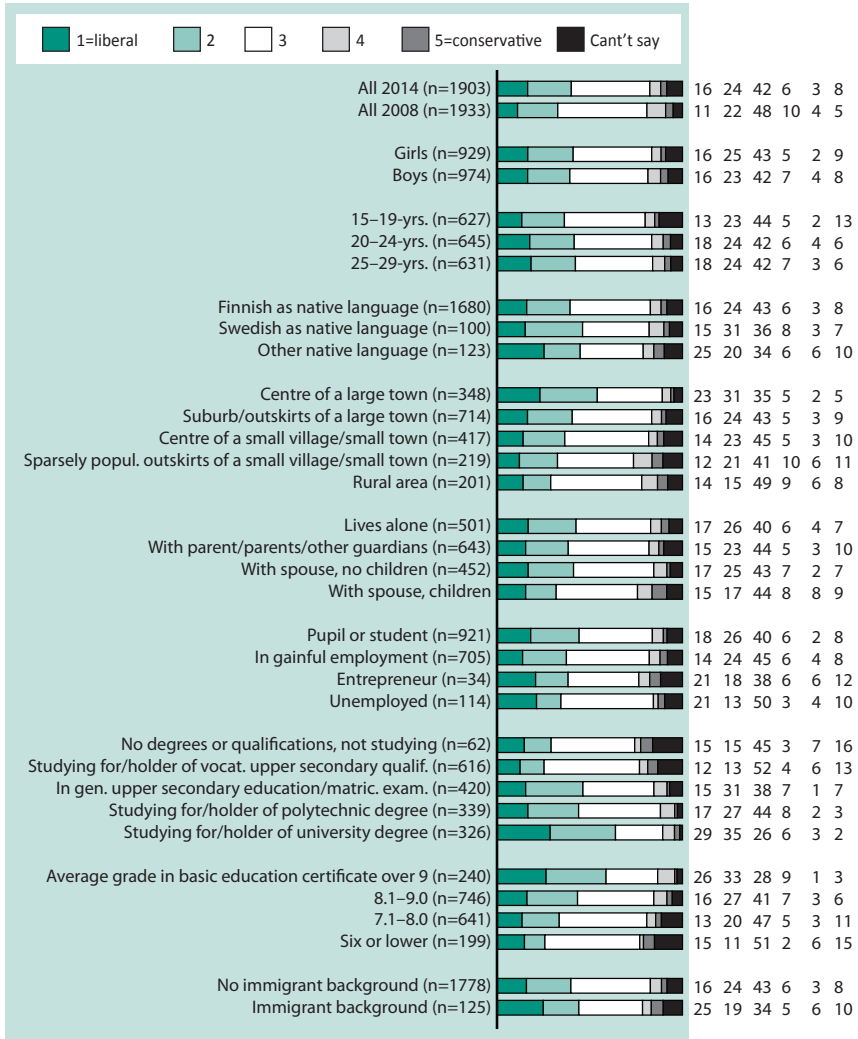


CHART 25. PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE LIBERAL – CONSERVATIVE DIMENSION. (%)



that are older. As a whole, religiousness among young people is strongest in Eastern and Northern Finland, in rural areas and in otherwise sparsely populated areas.

Patriotism

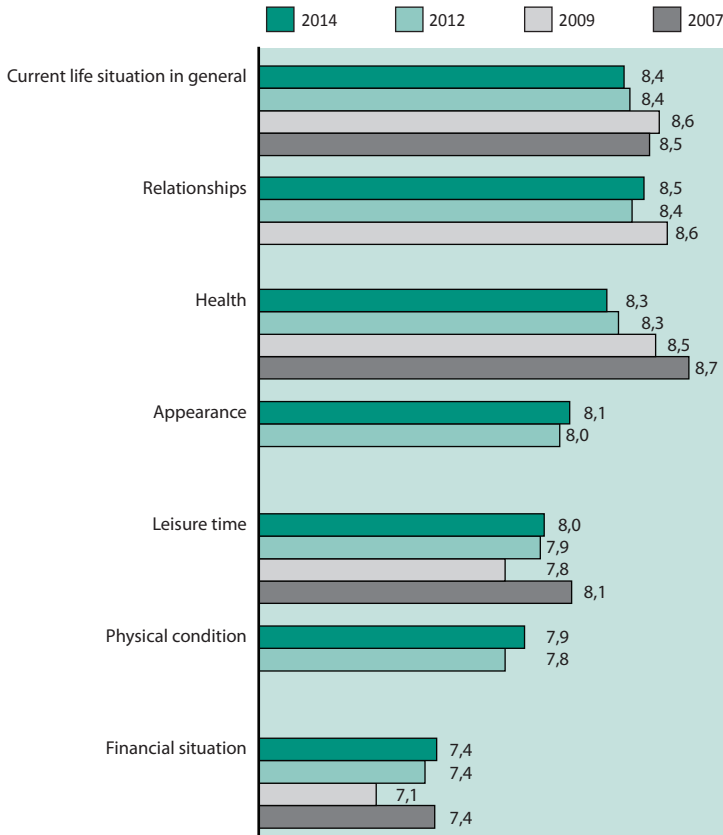
Four years ago, boys and girls considered themselves as equally patriotic. There have been no changes in boys' attitudes but girls have, in their own view,

become less patriotic during the past four years.

Patriotism is strongest among the youngest respondents, those living in rural areas and other small localities and less educated respondents. In a comparison based on the experiences with discrimination, patriotism is strongest among young people that have been

involved in discrimination and those with no personal experiences of discrimination. Strength of patriotism among young people with immigrant background correlate with the age of immigration (the feeling is stronger among those who have moved to Finland at a young age).

CHART 26. SATISFACTION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT AREAS OF LIFE 2007, 2009, 2012 AND 2014. (SCHOOL GRADES 4–10, AVERAGES.)



Liberal – conservative

A total of 40% of the young people place themselves on the liberal end of the dimension and only 9% consider themselves as conservatives. Compared with the year 2008, young people consider themselves more liberal. At the time, young women considered themselves more liberal than young men. Now there are no statistically significant gaps between the genders, which is mainly the result of young men becoming more liberal. Identifying with liberal values is by far most common in towns, especially in the centres of big towns. In geographical terms, identification with liberal values is strongest among young people in Western Finland and particularly in Uusimaa.

There are more young people with immigrant background who place them at the extreme end of the liberal dimension. However, in terms of averages, there are no differences between them and mainstream Finns. It seems that liberal values are strongest among those who have moved to Finland as children and those belonging to the second generation of immigrants (born in Finland)

even though, as a result of a small sample, the differences are not statistically significant.

SATISFACTION

Satisfaction was examined by asking young people to assess different areas of life using the scale of four to ten. The chart contains the averages of the answers from the highest to the lowest score, including satisfaction with life in general. Relationships (8.5), health (8.3), appearance (8.1) and leisure time (8.0) are the biggest sources of satisfaction among young people. Satisfaction with physical condition (7.9) and especially financial situation (7.4) are slightly below average.

The chart also shows the changes in the satisfaction with life and different areas of life in the light of the most recent Youth Barometers. The most significant - and most worrying - change is the downward trend in the satisfaction with one's health among the respondents. The overall situation is however, fairly stable and there have been no major fluctuations in recent years.

YOUTH BAROMETER 2014

Youth Barometer is an annual telephone survey focusing on young people aged 15 to 29 living in Finland.

The survey has been conducted since 1994.

The theme of the 2014 *Youth Barometer* is equality and discrimination.

The majority of the young people report that they have experienced discrimination in some period of their lives.

The survey examines the forms of discrimination as well as the places, the causes and the consequences.

For the first time, the survey also includes young people whose native language is not Finnish or Swedish.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
YOUTH RESEARCH NETWORK
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS

